

From: Troy Folger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 11:30am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think that the proposed settlement will have little or no effect on Microsoft's business practices, and therefore should be rejected.

The most telling point is this: the only viable competition to Microsoft operating systems are FREE ones. OS/2, Netware, BeOS, and other operating systems offered for the Intel hardware platform have been crushed by Microsoft's stranglehold monopoly. Linux and other free unix variants survive only because millions of people worldwide are donating their time and talent to the projects.

In addition, Microsoft has not used their monopoly position to strengthen their products. Instead, they have added utilities and features designed to crush competition outside the operating system category (utilities, browsers, media players, etc). Meanwhile, their products suffer from security flaws so outrageous that the public would reject Microsoft products outright - except that there is no alternative.

Any settlement must address the fundamental issue: Microsoft has been found to be a monopoly, and consumers will continue to suffer, more and more, unless an effective barrier to Microsoft's monopolistic practices is erected. The proposed settlement contains no such barrier.

Sincerely,

Troy Folger
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Citizen and Taxpayer of the USA